

APPROVED JANUARY 6, 2010

At 7:05 PM Chairman Charles Kimball called the meeting to order. Budget Committee members present were Charles Kimball, Andy Kohlhofer, Pat Martel, Michael Nygren, Sue D'Eon, Peg Pinkham, Selectmen Greta St. Germain and Recording Secretary Jeanne Nygren.

A motion to table the minutes of the December 12, 2009 meeting was made by Kohlhofer. This was seconded by Nygren. The vote was 6-1. D'Eon abstained as she was not present at this meeting.

A motion to approve the minutes of the December 16, 2009 meeting was made by Kohlhofer with one addition of someone missing in attendance. This was seconded by D'Eon. The vote was unanimous was 7-0.

Chief Richard Butler was here tonight to answer any questions from the Budget Committee. Kohlhofer said one issue he has noticed is year to year the budget under spent and he commended Butler on this. Butler said one of the biggest line item is the stipends and LOSAP, this is set up and this one line can't be touched throughout the year as it is dispensed at the end of the year. Depending upon the participation leads to what is spent from this line. Maybe after they figure the LOSAP portion and stipend portion they can roll this money left over into the point value for redistribution or maybe they should consider increasing the point value to spend this whole line at the end of the year. The Selectmen have the final decision on this suggestion. Pinkham said they are under spent by a total of \$16,000. Pinkham asked Butler to look at his budget and see if he had any other adjustments. Nygren said he wanted him to purchase the camera this year which wasn't possible and if you take out the LOSAP he is still under by \$22,000 and also the history of this budget shows this. Why give them the money for the camera when they have money in the budget left over in lines as shows in the past 5 years and can purchase with these funds.

Kohlhofer had a question on the fire training asking for \$5,400 and they have never spent this much. Butler said they run a spring and Fall class with an attendance permitted of only 25. With 47 towns trying to get people in these classes sometimes there is the problem. Nygren asked what is the number he usually has attending. Butler said in Firefighter I class he has 3. Butler said also we have the opportunity to send them for a week class in Concord if they can take a week off from work but this class costs more money. This is a requirement for the first year to pass Firefighter I. If someone wants to get trained to better the department and the Town he doesn't want to have to say no. Pinkham asked Butler to speak on the differences that the Selectmen made and what he can address and what can he live with. The difference was in hazmat, hepatitis B and Butler said yes he could live with this budget. The pagers have already been updated and he has chargers for the portable radios, also that both the battery and radio are expensive. They bought a charged system that conditions the batteries and cycles all these batteries to get more life from these batteries and they don't need to be replaced as often. Martel asked if he would be able to purchase the camera from this budget line. The other question was on EMS training. Butler said 3 out of 6 first responders are looking to go to the EMT training class in 2010. This varies as not everyone's recertification comes up at the same time as there is a 2 year window. In 2009 there are 33 members to the department according to Butler.

Martel said the overall Town budget is down by 3 1/2 percent. A motion to go with the Selectmen's recommendation for the Fire Department budget of \$179,236 was made by Nygren. This was seconded Kohlhofer. The vote was 6-1. Pinkham nay.

Chief Butler was thanked by the Budget Committee and he left the meeting at 7:35 PM.

Carlson said on Warrant Article 5 there was a typing error and this figure should be \$76,000.00. She also stated that the \$60,000 warrant for roads upgrades was taken out by the Selectmen and a separate line item put in the highway budget where the Block Grant money will be placed and tracked separately on these road upgrades. By doing this, we will be spending this money for what it has been given for rather than going into the General Fund. Kohlhofer asked if this is put into the highway budget and the budget gets voted down and we go to default. Nygren feels if this is left into the budget and if they overspend this budget, then this money could be used or moved around to another line. He feels leaving it as a Warrant is the better avenue to take.

Article 15 to raise and appropriate the sum of \$3532.00 to purchase and install additional playground equipment for children ages 2-5 at Fremont Memorial Fields was discussed. These funds would be taken from the existing Special Revenue Fund for Parks and Recreation Playground. This is no cost for the taxpayer. The Selectmen recommended this \$3532.00 in this article. After discussion, the Budget Committee felt that this Article would be better to be taken off as there is a potential of being voted down by the Town's voters at the polls, and as there are sufficient funds in the Field Maintenance account (\$9,000) to purchase this equipment, they would be guaranteed to get this equipment for the children. A suggestion to Selectmen St. Germain was made that the Selectmen revisit this issue at their next meeting and use the existing Field Maintenance account.

Pinkham left the meeting at 7:50 PM.

Carlson wanted to clarify the recommendation on the Article 7 to place \$12,500 into the Capital Reserve Fund. This figure was verified as they wanted the Police Department to be able to get back on their schedule for purchasing cruisers.

The only other recommendation is Article 16 Cable Access and being able to set up the revolving fund. \$25,000 is in the warrant to establish this fund and accept \$25,000 in 2010 to be able to purchase cable equipment. A motion was made by Kohlhofer to recommend this article. This was seconded by St. Germain. Kohlhofer supports this because when the meetings were taped previously by Citizen Keith Stanton there were people watching them and there were a lot of comments on them and people have been asking when they are going to tape the meetings again. The vote was 6-0. The vote was unanimous.

Martel asked about the Historic Museum article and it being missing. Carlson said Matthew Thomas spoke with her and asked to have this article taken off due to the economy and he will try another year. There was a recommendation by Kohlhofer that he might get a more favorable response if he didn't state the money is being spent for the

Historic Museum building and that they are trying to continually use the museum. Carlson said in order to do that you would have to create another Capital Reserve Fund or

change the purpose of the existing one. The discussion of the library solarium then pursued with no recommendation as this would have to be a decision by the Library Trustees.

4445- VENDOR PAYMENT TO SOCIAL SERVICE AGENCIES

A motion was made by Kohlhofer to reduce line 4445-024 Child Advocacy Center from \$1500 to \$1,000. This was seconded by D'Eon. The vote was unanimous 6-0. Kohlhofer said to ask for \$500 more with no explanation was not justification enough for the Budget Committee to make the recommendation to approve these additional funds. Kimball was not too enthused with the Red Cross at recent situations of fires and storms that he wasn't impressed with them and thought maybe to consider reducing this line to zero. A motion by Nygren to leave this fund level funded at the 2009 request of \$425.00. This was seconded by Kohlhofer. The vote was 6-0. The vote was unanimous.

A motion to recommend \$29,024 for the total for 4445-Vendor Payment to Social Service Agencies was made by Kohlhofer. This was seconded by Nygren. The vote was unanimous 6-0.

Carlson left the meeting at 8:20 PM.

Other discussion by the Budget Committee covered combining the Town Clerk and Tax Collector position, giving raises to part time employees and adjusting positions that may not be considered to be full time due to the lack of revenues. All these topics will be discussed at a later time.

The Budget Committee then started to go through the school budget line by line.

1100 REGULAR EDUCATION

There was discussion regarding the 2 new teaching positions and the history in over projecting the number of students, lack of government funding, eliminating the preschool program due to lack of funding, and preschool students that don't pay tuition.

A motion was made by Kohlhofer to eliminate the 2 new teacher positions for line 5112-10-0000 Teachers Salary in the amount of \$67,596.00. This was seconded by Martel. The vote was unanimous 6-0. Kohlhofer felt that with going on the overspending of salary by \$30,000 in the principal's office, and moving money throughout the budget they should be able to do this without adding teacher positions. An accounting of these lines that have had money moved to and from had been requested of the School Board by the Budget Committee at their last meeting.

With kindergarten not being funded this year Kohlhofer wanted to eliminate the teachers and let the State pick up the tab. Since 1988 everything has to be funded by the State. Kohlhofer said since they are not increasing the amount of aid we are getting then we don't have to spend the amount money that we are spending.

Nygren went through the tuition line and the extra money that is in this fund. He said there has been a default budget for 2 years at Sanborn. They are projecting the tuition to be less than last year. In line 5561-10 Tuition Public High School they are showing a decrease of \$61,331.00 which is a reduction in 11 students from last year. A motion to decrease this line by \$103,096 to \$3,031,515 was made by Martel, which is the tuition of \$14,728 times 7 students on top of the 3 they already took off. This was seconded St. Germain. The vote was unanimous 6-0.

A motion to reduce line 5220-10 FICA Regular education by \$5,171 reduce based on 2 less teachers by Kohlhofer. This was seconded by St. Germain. The vote was unanimous 6-0. A motion to reduce line 5232-10-Teachers Retirement Regular Education by \$5,063. from \$120,106.00 to \$115,043.00 was made by Kohlhofer. This was seconded by St. Germain. The vote was unanimous 6-0.

A motion to reduce line 5211-10 Health Insurance Regular Education by \$28000 from \$459,686 to \$431,686 was made by Kohlhofer. This was seconded by St. Germain. The vote was unanimous 6-0.

A motion to reduce 5212-10 Dental Insurance Regular Education by \$858.00 to \$13,313.00 was made by Kohlhofer. This was seconded by Martel. The vote was unanimous 6-0.

A motion to reduce line 5213-10 Life Insurance Regular Education by \$312.00 to \$4,822.00 by Kohlhofer. This was seconded by Nygren. The vote was unanimous 6-0.

A motion to reduce line 5250-10 Unemployment Regular Education by \$266.00 to \$1781.00 was made by Kohlhofer. This was seconded by St. Germain. The vote was unanimous 6-0.

A motion to reduce line 5260-10 Worker's Compensation Regular Education by \$351.00 to \$7,988.00 was made by Kohlhofer. This was seconded by St. Germain. The vote was unanimous 6-0.

A motion to reduce line 5615-10 Test Material by \$2500.00 to \$6000.00 was made by Nygren. This was seconded by Kohlhofer. The vote was unanimous 6-0.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Kohlhofer. This was seconded by Nygren. The vote was unanimous 6-0. The meeting ended at 10:15 PM.

The next Budget Committee meeting was January 6, 2009 at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Nygren
Recording Secretary